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STATE OF
RHODE
ISLAND
J. JOSEPH GARRAHY
GOVERNOR

EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

VOLUME 26 FEBRUARY 1980 NUMBER 2

R. I. WORKFORCE DECLINED IN JANUARY TO 391,700, BUT WAS UP 2,200 IN YEAR

"Employment trends in January followed traditional patterns with sharp seasonal declines occurring in the Retail Trade, Construction, Services, and Jewelry/ Silverware segments of the State's economy," Director of the Department of Employment Security, Mary C. Hackett reported today.

Preliminary estimates show that 391,700 workers were gainfully employed at mid-January. The monthly job reduction amounted to 13,000; however, the numbers of those working in January exceeded that reported one year ago by 2,200 jobs.

EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES REVISED

Previously published estimates for 1978 and 1979, prepared monthly in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, have been revised to the first quarter 1979 benchmark. Latest figures include data on new firms, expansion and/or contraction in existing firms not sampled, as well as non-covered establishments, and also reflects changes in assigned industrial coding caused by product or service changes occurring in 1978-1979. The differences between total employment data previously published for January to December 1979 and the revised data for those months amount to less than one-tenth of one percent for January and three-tenths of one percent for December.

NONMANUFACTURING JOBS DOWN

Expected seasonal influences dominated the January employment changes in nonmanufacturing industries as sharp cutbacks occurred in Retail Trade, Services, and Construction segments. The latest estimate of 261,400 indicates a reduction of 10,500 jobs from December, but a twelve-month gain of about 3,100 jobs.

(Continued on Page 4)

PROFIT BY EXPERIENCE EMPLOY THE OLDER WORKER

National Employ the Older Worker Week will be observed during the period March 9 - 15. It is an appropriate time for us to examine our attitudes toward older workers. It is also a time for employers to consider carefully whether any lingering bias against older workers affects their employment practices. Hiring on the basis of ability, not age, is a matter of fairness. It is also good business.

Repeated studies have shown that, by every common measure of job performance, older workers are at least as effective as younger people. One survey found that workers reach their peak performance between the ages of 51 and 55; another that they do so between the ages of 56 and 60.

The number of workdays lost for all reasons declines with age. Workers in every age group over 50 years lose fewer scheduled workdays than those in any age group under 50.

Profit by experience! Employ the older worker. List your job openings with the Job Bank at 277-3588 (toll-free Enterprise 2265) or contact the nearest office of the R. I. Job Service listed on page four of this Bulletin.

JOB SERVICE

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITIES

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Total Placements	1,768	1,592	2,422
New Applications	6,093	3,783	5,711
New Openings Received	2,947	2,354	3,723

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ACTIVITIES

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	% Change from Dec.
Initial Claims	16,707	27,126	— 38.4
No. of Payments	101,673	70,668	+ 43.9
Amt. of Payments	$8,998,784	$6,015,999	+ 49.6
Exhaustions	2,647	1,999	+ 32.4

EXTENDED BENEFITS PROGRAM

Statistics for the Extended Benefits Program, the cost of which is shared by the State and the Federal Government, are presented below:

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	% Change from Dec.
Initial Claims	3	548	— 99.5
No. of Payments	68	8,408	— 99.2
Amt. of Payments	$6,041	$742,463	— 99.2

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed
January 1980

	Number	Percent
Sex and Age		
TOTAL	24,934	100.0
Men	14,437	57.9
Under 45	9,036	62.6
45 and over	5,401	37.4
Women	10,497	42.1
Under 45	5,674	54.1
45 and over	4,823	45.9
Industry Attachment		
Contract Construction	4,060	16.3
Manufacturing	10,701	42.9
Public Utilities	849	3.4
Trade	3,261	13.1
Finance-Insurance-Real Estate	1,002	4.0
Service	2,888	11.6
All Other	2,173	8.7
Occupational Skills		
Prof., Tech. and Mgr.	2,259	9.1
Clerical and Sales	3,686	14.8
Service	1,783	7.2
Forestry, Fishery, and Rel.	849	3.4
Processing	1,036	4.2
Machine Trades	2,769	11.1
Bench Work	4,705	18.9
Structural Work	4,603	18.5
Miscellaneous	1,972	11.9
Not Available	272	1.1

Providence-Warwick-Pawtucket Labor Area

Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates
(In Thousands)

	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978
Civilian Labor Force	459.3	543.3	445.4
Unemployment	29.0	23.4	26.8
Rate (Unadjusted)	6.3	5.2	6.0
Seas. Adjusted Rate	6.7	5.8	6.4

Newport Labor Area

Labor Force - Unemployment Estimates

	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978
Civilian Labor Force	29,090	29,055	26,090
Unemployment	1,650	1,370	1,725
Rate (Unadjusted)	5.7	4.7	6.6

Westerly Labor Area

Labor Force - Unemployment Estimates

	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978
Civilian Labor Force	13,005	12,860	11,945
Unemployment	735	625	695
Rate (Unadjusted)	5.7	4.9	5.8

LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

The following cities and towns have been classified as Labor Surplus Areas by the U. S. Department of Labor. The classifications are effective through May 31, 1980. Establishments located in these cities and towns are eligible for preference in receiving federal contracts.

Burrillville
Charlestown
Coventry
East Greenwich
Foster
Glocester
Hopkinton
Johnston
New Shoreham
Newport
North Kingstown
North Smithfield
Pawtucket
Providence
Richmond
Scituate
West Warwick
Woonsocket

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS, AND HOURS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN RHODE ISLAND

	EMPLOYMENT					PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES					
	In Thousands			Net Change From		Weekly Earnings		Weekly Hours		Hourly Earnings	
INDUSTRY GROUP	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979	Jan. 1980	Jan. 1979	Jan. 1980	Jan. 1979	Jan. 1980	Jan. 1979
ALL MANUFACTURING	130.3	132.8	131.2	— 2500	— 900	$215.17	$195.42	39.7	39.4	$5.42	$4.96
DURABLE GOODS	56.2	56.6	54.7	— 400	+ 1500	248.44	225.03	41.2	40.4	6.03	5.57
PRIMARY METALS	8.2 *	8.3 *	7.1 *	— 100	+ 1100	269.55	255.55	43.9	42.1	6.14	6.07
FABRICATED METALS	10.0	10.4	10.2	— 400	— 200	210.65	192.12	38.3	38.5	5.50	4.99
NON-ELEC. MACHINERY	9.4	9.5	9.4	— 100	0	298.94	284.24	43.2	44.0	6.92	6.46
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY	11.9	11.8	11.6	+ 100	+ 300	197.93	191.00	37.7	39.3	5.25	4.86
STONE-CLAY-GLASS	3.1	3.1	2.8	0	+ 300	280.74	257.30	45.5	45.3	6.17	5.68
TRANSPORTATION EQUIP.	6.5	6.5	6.3	0	+ 200	308.58	237.01	44.4	37.8	6.95	6.27
INSTRUMENTS	5.1	5.2	5.4	— 100	— 300	230.58	200.29	42.0	40.3	5.49	4.97
LUMBER-FURNITURE	2.0	1.8	1.9	+ 200	+ 100	200.64	182.85	35.2	34.5	5.70	5.30
NONDURABLE GOODS	74.1	76.2	76.5	— 2100	— 2400	189.81	176.15	38.5	38.8	4.93	4.54
JEWELRY-SILVERWARE	27.1	28.7	29.7	— 1600	— 2600	164.13	156.94	36.8	38.0	4.46	4.13
FOOD-BEVERAGE	3.5	3.4	3.6	+ 100	— 100	181.20	192.95	32.3	36.2	5.61	5.33
TEXTILE PRODUCTS	12.6	12.8	12.4	— 200	+ 200	204.40	186.12	41.8	42.3	4.89	4.40
APPAREL	3.5	3.6	3.5	— 100	0	184.17	162.43	40.3	38.4	4.57	4.23
PAPER PRODUCTS	3.0	3.0	2.9	0	+ 100	206.63	189.26	40.2	40.7	5.14	4.65
PRINTING-PUBLISHING	5.1	5.2	5.1	— 100	0	281.30	259.39	39.9	38.6	7.05	6.72
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	3.1	3.2	3.1	— 100	0	284.20	280.41	40.6	39.0	7.00	7.19
RUBBER PRODUCTS	1.7	1.7	1.9	0	— 200	183.05	184.12	35.0	38.6	5.23	4.77
PLASTIC PRODUCTS	5.7	5.7	5.4	0	+ 300	215.47	191.12	40.2	39.9	5.36	4.79
LEATHER PRODUCTS	3.3	3.4	3.4	— 100	— 100	127.09	123.20	35.4	35.2	3.59	3.50
MISCELLANEOUS MFG.	5.5	5.5	5.5	0	0	179.24	151.01	38.3	35.7	4.68	4.23

* LABOR DISPUTE.
1979 FIGURES REVISED. 1980 FIGURES ARE PRELIMINARY. ESTIMATES ARE FOR PAY PERIOD WHICH INCLUDES THE 12TH OF THE MONTH.
COMPILED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U. S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN RHODE ISLAND
(Per 100 Employees)
December 1979

	ACCESSION RATES						SEPARATION RATES								
	TOTAL			NEW HIRES			TOTAL			QUITS			LAY-OFF RATES		
	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1979	Nov. 1979	Dec. 1978
MANUFACTURING	2.7	3.8	2.6	2.0	3.1	2.0	5.0	6.3	6.9	1.5	2.6	2.1	2.7	2.6	3.7
DURABLE GOODS	2.6	3.4	2.4	2.1	2.9	1.9	3.0	4.3	3.7	1.2	1.8	1.3	1.1	1.7	1.5
Primary Metals	1.8	2.7	1.4	1.3	1.9	1.3	1.3	1.8	2.7	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.2	0.1	1.1
Fabricated Metals	3.5	3.8	2.9	2.9	3.4	2.0	2.3	3.5	3.8	1.4	2.0	1.8	0.3	0.5	0.5
Non-Elec. Mach.	1.9	2.6	1.7	1.2	1.9	1.3	1.6	3.4	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.4	2.1	***
Electrical Mach.	3.3	4.9	3.1	2.8	4.4	2.8	4.1	5.5	3.1	2.3	3.2	2.1	1.2	1.5	0.1
Instruments-Optical	1.6	2.5	2.1	1.2	2.0	1.9	2.4	7.5	5.1	1.0	1.4	1.1	0.7	5.3	3.4
OTHER DURABLE GOODS *	2.9	2.8	2.3	2.2	2.3	1.7	5.4	5.5	5.3	1.0	2.1	0.8	3.6	2.6	3.5
NONDUR. GOODS	2.8	4.0	2.8	2.0	3.2	2.1	6.4	7.7	9.1	1.8	3.2	2.6	3.8	3.3	5.1
Food-Beverage	3.3	8.8	8.8	1.1	7.1	7.4	3.9	15.5	12.5	1.5	7.4	8.6	1.4	7.4	2.9
Textiles	3.4	4.5	3.2	2.7	3.7	2.3	3.1	3.8	4.7	1.8	2.2	2.1	0.4	0.4	1.7
Apparel	5.0	5.9	3.5	1.6	3.2	2.2	7.5	7.1	6.3	1.2	2.0	2.4	5.5	3.2	3.4
Paper & Allied Prod.	4.0	2.5	4.4	3.0	2.0	3.8	6.1	5.6	8.1	1.8	3.0	3.1	3.6	1.6	1.9
Rubber & Plas. Prod.	3.7	3.3	2.8	2.5	2.2	1.7	3.3	4.0	7.2	1.4	1.9	1.6	1.4	0.9	1.3
Jewelry & Silverware	1.8	3.9	2.3	1.4	3.1	1.9	9.9	10.8	9.8	1.6	3.0	3.0	7.8	6.3	6.2
OTHER NONDURABLE GOODS **	2.9	3.1	1.8	2.3	2.8	1.0	4.4	5.6	14.1	2.2	4.0	1.8	1.1	0.7	10.5

* RATES FOR DECEMBER 1979 ARE PRELIMINARY. RATES FOR NOVEMBER 1979 AND DECEMBER 1978 ARE FINAL.
** INCLUDES: LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS; STONE, CLAY AND GLASS PRODUCTS AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT. INCLUDES: PRINTING, PUBLISHING AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES; CHEMICALS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS; LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS AND MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.
*** LESS THAN 0.05 PERCENT.

TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From			
	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979		Dec. 1979		Jan. 1979
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT*	391.7	404.7	389.5	—	13000	+	2200
MANUFACTURING	130.3	132.8	131.2	—	2500	—	900
NONMANUFACTURING	261.4	271.9	258.3	—	10500	+	3100
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	11.7	14.0	11.3	—	2300	+	400
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	13.2	13.5	13.1	—	300	+	100
TRADE (Wholesale & Retail)	79.1	84.2	79.1	—	5100		0
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	20.8	21.2	20.5	—	400	+	300
SERVICE (Miscellaneous)	76.8	79.4	74.5	—	2600	+	2300
GOVERNMENT (Federal, State & Local)	59.8	59.6	59.8	+	200		0

1979 FIGURES ARE PRELIMINARY. 1978 FIGURES HAVE BEEN REVISED.
ESTIMATES ARE FOR PAY PERIOD WHICH INCLUDES THE 12TH OF THE MONTH.
COMPILED BY THE DIVISION OF STATISTICS & CENSUS IN COOPERATION WITH THE U. S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.
* FARMERS, SELF-EMPLOYED, DOMESTIC AND ARMED SERVICES PERSONNEL ARE EXCLUDED.

(Continued from Page 1)

The end of the holiday season resulted in the usual large decrease in Trade employment. The mid-January total of 79,100 was off 5,100 in a month (almost exclusively in Retail Trade), and was even with last January's data.

Employment in the Services segment of the economy declined by 2,600 jobs in the month to 76,800 in January, up 2,300 over the year. Contract construction jobs declined seasonally by 2,300. Mild weather in December-January held the job reduction to a lower than usual drop, and in the year-to-year comparison, jobs were up 400.

The Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate total of 20,800 was off 400 jobs in a month but up 300 over the year. Transportation-Public Utilities establishments reported 13,200 workers in mid-January, off 300 in a month but up 100 in twelve months. State and Local government units reported an increase of 200 jobs over the month to remain even with data reported for one year ago.

FACTORY JOBS DOWN

The number of manufacturing jobs, at 130,300, declined by 2,500 from December to January, and by 900 over the year. Slightly more than four of five jobs lost over the month were in the Nondurable Goods sector, led by a seasonal cutback of 1,600 Jewelry/Silverware workers. Textiles reported a drop of 200 jobs over the month. In the nine other Nondurable segments, there were four declines of 100 jobs each, four did not change, and one segment reported a gain of 100 workers in a month-to-month comparison.

In the Durable Goods sector, Fabricated Metals showed a decrease of 400 jobs over the month to 10,000, down 200 over the year. Lumber-Furniture added 200 jobs in January, while all other segments reported changes of 100 jobs or remained even with December's data. (NOTE: Although some real over-the-year growth occurred in the Primary Metals segment, the 1,100 job increase in the twelve-month period was due largely to the reclassification of several firms out of other industries into Primary Metals.)

HOURS AND WAGES

The average manufacturing workweek declined .1 of an hour in January to 39.7 hours. Average hourly earnings for factory production workers in Rhode Island rose 9 cents an hour to $5.42, producing a gross weekly earnings figure of $215.17 in January, up $3.04 a week from December data.

RHODE ISLAND
Labor Force - Unemployment Estimates
(In Thousands)

	Jan. 1980	Dec. 1979	Jan. 1979
Civilian Labor Force	459.4	460.2	427.2
Unemployment	35.0	29.2	33.7
Rate (Unadjusted)	7.6	6.3	7.9
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	6.7	6.6	6.9

JOB BANK 277-3588
or Enterprise 2265

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RHODE ISLAND JOB SERVICE OFFICES

EAST PROVIDENCE, 877 Broadway 277-3537
NEWPORT, 268 Bellevue Avenue 847-2038
PAWTUCKET, 109 Main St. 722-7500
PROVIDENCE
Professional, Clerical & Sales
40 Fountain St. 277-3579
Jewelry 277-3553
Manufacturing 277-3556
Construction 277-3559
40 Fountain Street
Hotel, Hospital, Household & Restaurant
40 Fountain Street. 277-3559
NO. PROVIDENCE, 1951 Smith St. 231-5290
QUONSET POINT, Bldg. No. 523 277-3521
294-4505
WAKEFIELD, Washington County Gov't Center,
Tower Hill Road 789-9721
WARREN, 851 Main Street. 245-9300
WARWICK, 50 Airport Road. 737-7550
WESTERLY, 57 Spruce Street. 596-2814
WEST WARWICK, 17 Providence St. 821-5400
WOONSOCKET, 217 Pond St. 762-9010

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